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## The Progress of a Year.

Wars come and go, but the movements which are finally to make war impossible "go on forever," and with constantly increasing momentum. The old brutal passions, survivals of savagery and barbarism, break out afresh now and then, and manifest themselves in forms that shock and humiliate us, and make us feel sometimes that the devil is always to have his way. But the federative social instincts and principles, of which men can never wholly divest themselves, are steadily gaining in depth, breadth and staying power, and working out the peace of the world with a certainty as absolute as that of the workings of the law of gravitation.

It would be very easy to point out in present social, industrial and political conditions enough darkness, woe and crime to make the most sanguine despair, if he fixed his eyes on these alone. But these are only the inky clouds on an increasingly clearing sky, appearing all the blacker by reason of the growing brightness and blueness of the celestial background. We are not in the least disposed to dodge or underestimate these dark and forbidding conditions, as our readers well know. They must be kept always in

view, and treated faithfully and heroically according to their deserts.

But, on the other hand, the social and political effects of truth and righteousness, of love and beneficence, are in their way no less marked and impressive, though they are less noisy and obtrusive. Their victories, in small ways and in large ways, are already so great that there can no longer be any doubt of their ultimate triumph and mastery of the world. It is not now the mere spirit of prophecy that encourages us, as was the case with the optimists of the far past: it is accomplished facts. What are some of these facts?

There never was a time in the history of the world when there was so nearly no war going on as at the opening of this New Year; when there was so much of that for which the term peace in its positive aspects stands. Technically there is no war at all over the whole face of the earth, unless it be between some savage peoples of whom no account comes to us. This is a fact the force of which it is hard to realize in a world where until recently war was the normal state. In several quarters of the globe there is plenty of material for war, dangerous and inflammable conditions, from which disastrous conflicts may possibly arise at any moment. The fact that out of these conditions hostilities have not already sprung is the marvelous thing. In the not remote past such conditions would have led inevitably to fierce and long-continued carnage.

To-day the civilized world has reached a stage where a great restraint is almost constantly thrown upon the elements which of themselves would inevitably bring on war. This restraint is imposed by a variety of things,—commerce, travel, intercommunication, fear of the disastrous results of combat, increased sensitiveness to suffering, larger humanitarian ideas, the opposition of organized labor, etc.,—into the details of which we cannot here go. However selfish and unworthy some of the causes may be,—and some of them are certainly in the highest degree worthy,—the restraint exists, and it is accustoming men and nations more and more to the view that war is not necessary and may be both honorably and profitably avoided. That is an immense gain, the outcome of which is to be the wisdom and moral strength which will some time wholly eliminate war.

Turning to arbitration, through which this new attitude toward war expresses itself in another way, the past year has been a most remarkable one. It